

1 - 12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:

prompting an operator with a first electrode pad prompt;
detecting with the automatic external defibrillator prior
to pad attachment that the pad is being handled;

prompting an operator, in response to detecting pad
handling, to conduct a pad placement action;

sensing that the operator has conducted the prompted pad
placement action; and

following placement of the pads on the subject, receiving an ECG signal from the subject.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator with a first electrode pad
prompt further comprises prompting the operator to remove a cover from the pads; and

wherein sensing further comprises sensing that the pads are being handled.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein prompting an operator with a first electrode pad
prompt further comprises prompting the operator to pull a handle and remove a cover.

16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator in response to detecting pad

handling further comprises prompting the operator to remove a pad from a liner.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing the contact state of the pads.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing whether the pads are in electrical contact with one another.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein sensing further comprises sensing an impedance signal with the pads.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein prompting an operator in response to detecting pad handling further comprises prompting the operator to look at the pictures on the pads.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting the operator to place the pads as shown by the icons on the pads; and

wherein sensing further comprises sensing that the pads have been placed on the subject.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein sensing further comprises sensing an impedance signal with the pads.

23. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 13, A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising: prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action; sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not; following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt to correct an error state~~ ~~remove a pad liner.~~

24. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 23, wherein the error state further comprises one of erratic pad contact, A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:~~

~~prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action; sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not; following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt that the pads must not be touching each other, failure to remove a liner, or pad placed on clothing.~~

25. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 24, wherein the A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:~~

~~prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action; sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not; following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt comprises one of the following instructions: an instruction to firmly press the pads to bare skin, an instruction to ensure~~

~~that the liner has been removed, an instruction to place the pad in accordance with the pad placement picture, or an instruction that the pads must not touch each other or clothing.~~

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1323, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.

27. (new) The method according to claim 24, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.

28. (new) The method according to claim 25, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.